Vol. 4. Numb. 29.

THE REHEARSAL.

1. How the *Obſervator* and I Hit it.
2. We both mean the ſame thing. But he will fall upon the *Miniſtery*, and I cannot keep him from it.
3. He takes *Care* not to *Hurt* me.
4. He brings me off Cleverly as to the *Abdication*.
5. And yields a Compleat *Victory* as to the Power of the *People*.
6. What Good the *Rehearſals* wou'd do in *Poland*. The *Law* is the *Stint* of *Liberty* and *Property*.
7. The *Obſervator* Likes every thing he ſays I have done, except againſt the *Whiggs* and *Diſſenters*.
8. What every one Likes beſt, next to his own, is *Beſt* by the Confeſſion of All.

WEDNESDAY, *January* 19. 1708.

(1.) *Country-m.* HAVE you, *Maſter*, been *Concerting* again with the *Obſervator*? You make pure *Diverſion* for the Town. For in his of the 5th Inſtant he falls a *Railing* intolerably upon you, and *Holloos* the *Scots Members* againſt you over again. And in yours of the ſame Date you *Expoſe* him and *Laugh* at him for it, as if you had known beforehand what he wou'd ſay! Ther muſt be ſome *Fellow-Feeling* betwixt you!

(2.) *Rehearſal*, He has Liberty to make as Free with me as he Pleaſes. That's by Agreement! I have promis'd to take nothing ill from him! But I cannot Perſwade him for my life to keep Clear of the *Government* and the *Miniſtry*! He will Break his Shins do what I can! He Arraigns the *Adminiſtration* with no leſs than *Scandalous Neglect* in not *Proſecuting* me. And yet he ſays, *Were I to Chuſe his Puniſhment, it ſhou'd be no other than a private Retirement, good Treatment, and an able Phyſician.* If this be the *Sentence*, I promiſe you I'll plead *Guilty*. The *Obſervator* has Hit my Humour to a T. We're better Acquainted than every body thinks! And we both mean the ſame thing, tho' we Look different Ways! You are to take no more Notice of ſome *Familiar* Words we uſe to one another now and then, than of the *Scolding* of *Lawyers* at the *Bar*, they are not a bit leſs *Friends* at bottom! It is only to Gull the poor *Clients*, as we do our *Auditors*!

(3.) *Country-m.* I profeſs I begin to Believe you! For I obſerve that he never Accuſes you of any thing but where he is ſure you are *Safe*, and *Deſerve* rather the *Thanks* than the *Cenſure* of the *Government*. As in the firſt place, to Free the *Queen* from the *Coercion* of her *Subjects*. Which muſt be very Gratefull to her, and to all who wiſh her Well. And then to give a Turn to the *Revolution*, and ſave it from being a *Coercion*, which you will not ſay but wou'd ſave it from ſome Objections: And if herein you ſhou'd Fail, Yet every body muſt ſay, That it was well *Intended*, and that thou art a very *Honeſt* fellow!

Rehearſ. And that I might not Fail in my Proof, he has Furniſh'd me with the *Debates* of the *Convention*, which ſhew plainly that they went upon *Abdication*, and that by *Abdication* they meant a *Free* and *Voluntary RENOUNCING*!

(4.) *Country-m.* Ay but, *Maſter*, he has put a *Spoke* in your *Wheel*. For in his of the 20th of *Nov.* laſt, *Num.* 80. he has given you ſeveral *Speeches* made in the *Convention* which plainly Imply *Coercion*. And you have not ſaid a word to that yet.

Rehearſ. But he was ſtill Kind to me in the Matter. For he makes all the *Managers* of the *Houſe* of *Commons* at the *Conference* to be for *Abdication*. The Lords were for *Deſertion*. But the *Commons* wou'd not Agree to it. For a man might *Deſert* for *Fear* or *Compulſion*. Therefore they wou'd have it a Free and Voluntary *Abdication*, to keep it Clear from any Colour or Objection of *Coercion*. And the *Abdication* did Carry it, and the *Lords* came in to it, and it paſs'd the *Vote* of both *Houſes*. And what Signifies what any *Member* of either *Houſe* ſays

ſays againſt any *Bill* when it is *Debated* in the *Houſe*? The Major *Vote* Determins it, and when it is Paſs'd into a *Law*, it is as good an *Act of Parliament* as if it had gone *Nemine Contradicente*. So that thoſe *Speeches* the *Obſervator* Quotes make nothing againſt me. He knew they did not. And that I was fully Juſtify'd who went upon the *Abdication*. But he brought them in only to ſhew his Reſpects to ſome Noble *Lords*, who have the Misfortune not to be in his *good Graces*! Tho' I told him before, That I had heard ſome Concern'd in thoſe *Debates* Deny their Part as it is Printed. But he has had his *Stroke* at them, and ther's an End on't. And he Cannot Deny but that I have the *Convention* on my ſide of the Argument, for *Abdication* againſt *Coercion*. Neither will he Diſpute any more that the *Laws* of the *Land* are not Expreſly againſt *Ceercion*. Particularly the *Statute* 12 *Car.* 2. c. 30. even according to the *Letter*, Damning *Coercion* by *Name*.

(5.) And for the *Foundation-Work* of the *Original Power* of the *People*, and the *State of Nature-Government*, I dare ſay he will not Undertake the Defence of it, after he has ſeen how *Lock*, *Milton*, *Sidney*, &c. have been Maul'd upon that Head, even till *Dan. De Foe* himſelf has Quit them All, and thrown down the *Cudgels*. He has ſeen that *Principle* not only *Diſprov'd*, but made *Ridiculous*, *Contradictory* to it ſelf, and to all *Government*, againſt *Scripture*, *Fact*, and all *Common-Senſe*. Not only *Improbable*, but *Impoſſible* to be, or Ever to have been.

Country-m. You have a Compleat and Intire *Victory* in this. So that not a *Dog* of *Legion* (who were All about your Ears) Dare now ſo much as *Bark* at you. They only *Fry* in their *Greaſe*, and *Curſe* you Privatly by their *Gods*, *Belial* and *Beelzebub*, who under the falſe Notion of *Liberty* and *Property*, have made *Drunk* the *Nations*, and Turn'd them into Ruinous *Heaps*.

(6.) I wiſh *Poland* had a ſet of your *Rehearſals*. It wou'd do them more Good than all their three *Kings*, with the Help of *Moſcovites*, *Sweeds*, *Saxons*, *Coſſacks*, and *Tartars*, to preſerve their *Liberty* and *Property*! And what tho' they have Undergone the *Three* Great *Scourges* of *Sword*, *Famin*, and *Peſtilence*, what Signifies all that, ſince they have the *Liberty* to Chuſe another *King*! And the *Poſt-Man* of the 6th tells Us, That the *Grand General* one *Siniawsky*, will ſet up Prince *Conſtantine Sobiesky* on Condition he Marry his *Daughter*, and that the *Republican* Party will on that Conſideration *Elect* that *Prince* for their *King*. Deluded *Mobb*! Not to ſee, That this is the End which all *Patriots* for *Liberty* Drive at, even their own Advantage! And it is not two-Penke to the *People* which of all theſe *Competitors* is their *King*. Nor do they know that one will Govern better than another. Yet they will be *Impoveriſh'd* and ſpend their *Heart's Blood*, for one againſt another! And their *Patriots* tell them they muſt *Cut* one anothers *Throats*, to ſecure their *Liberty*! *England* was once thus *Infatuated*. Let us never ſee it again! No more *York* and *Lancaſter*! Nor *Olivers* for *Deliverers*! Let us make the *Laws* our *Rule*. And not learn to *Break* them, in order to *Preſerve* them. Let us think that only to be our *Liberty* and *Property* which the *Law* allows. All beyond this (as *Coercing* of our *Sovereigns*) is *Licentiouſneſs* and *Anarchy*, and Ends in *Confuſion*.

(7.) *Rehearſ.* Yet this *Doctrine* is that for which the *Obſervator* is Soliciting the *Government* againſt me. He ſuppoſes me to be the *Author* of ſome Books againſt the *Deiſts Socinians*, &c. And Expreſſes himſelf Pleas'd with them, but is very Angry at the *Rehearſals* and *Regale*. I have ſpoke of the *firſt*. And for the *Regale* (ſuppoſing me to be the *Author*) it is Wrote againſt *Eraſtianiſm*, and *Popery*; and wou'd Perſwade the *Papiſts* to Leave their *Errors* and ſo be *Reconcil'd* to Us. Let the *Obſervator* tell which of theſe he Diſlikes?

(8.) *Country-m.* I have heard moſt of thoſe againſt whom that *Author* has Wrote, ſay, He do's well againſt the *Others*, but what has he to do with *Us*? Which makes me Conclude him Equally Good againſt All. And if you are the *Author* (but I will ask no Queſtions) I will ſay, That you have Wrote nothing in your life with Greater *Demonſtration*, than in your *Rehearſals* againſt *Coercion* and the Power of the *People*.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

A Narrative of the late treatment of the Epiſcopal Miniſters within the City of *Edinburgh* ſince *March* laſt 1708, until their Impriſonment in *July* thereafter, with their Circumſtances and Defences together with ſome Reflections upon the ſame. With a Poſtcript. Sold by *J. Morphew*, near *Stationers Hall*.

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THE Wolf ſtript of his Shepherds cloathing, in anſwer to a late celebrated Book intitul'd Moderation a Vertue.

London, Printed and Sold by the Bookſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter*. 1708.